

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present patent application are numbered 11-39. Claims 18, 21, 24, 31, and 34 have been amended. Claims 29, 30, and 35 have been canceled. The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated January 30, 2006 have been carefully considered by the Applicant. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider and allow the remaining claims.

Acceptance of Allowed Claims

Claims 11-24 are allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 11-24 as allowable subject matter.

§112 Rejection

SECTION 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH REJECTION

The present Office Action rejected Claims 24-30 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the specification does not teach how to make or use a passive device that is not a diode. Applicant respectfully traverses the 112, first paragraph, rejection and respectfully asserts that one skilled in the art would be enabled to make and use the present invention using a passive

device (e.g., a resistor capacitor combination). However, Applicants have herein amended Claims 24 and canceled Claim 35 to provide the limitation of a plurality of "N diode devices," and a "unique switch and diode device combination," thereby rendering the 112, first paragraph, rejection moot. As such, Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 24-30 and 35 are fully enabled and overcome the Examiner's objections. Correspondingly, Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 24 is in a condition for allowance, and Claims 25-30 which depend from independent Claim 24 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

SECTION 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTION Section 112

In addition, the present Office Action rejected Claims 11, 18, 21, and 24-39 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Applicants have herein amended Claims 18, 21, 24, 31, and 34 and canceled Claims 29 and 30 to provide the limitation of a diode device. Applicants respectfully request review and approval of Claims 11, 18, 21, and 24-39.

Applicant respectfully asserts that independent Claim 11 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter. No specific 112, second paragraph rejection was provided for independent Claim 11 in the present Office Action. However, Applicant points out and understands that

Claim 11 is allowable (See page 3 of the present Office Action).

Further, Applicants have herein amended Claim 18 to clarify that the elements in Claim 18 are part of the same elements recited in independent Claim 11. As such, Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 18 overcomes the Examiner's objections, and is in a condition for allowance.

In addition, Applicants have herein amended Claim 21 to refer to the diode devices of independent Claim 11. As such, Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 21 overcomes the Examiner's objections, and is in a condition for allowance.

Also, referring to Claims 24-30, Applicant has herein amended Claim 24 to refer to a unique switch and diode device combination. Additionally, Applicant has canceled Claims 29 and 30. As such, Applicant respectfully contends that Claims 24-30 overcome the Examiner's objections, and are in a condition for allowance.

NEWLY ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Independent Claim 31

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph and to encompass the method of using the device

known as species II. Regarding Claim 31, Applicant has herein amended Claim 31 to encompass the method of using the device known as species II. Specifically, independent Claim 31 includes the limitations of a plurality of unique signal paths, each of which uniquely couple two of said I/O lines through an associated input element and an associated diode device. As such, Applicant respectfully contends that Claim 31 overcomes the Examiner's objections, and is in a condition for allowance.

In addition, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 32-34 and 36-39 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have herein provided for each of the Claims 32-34 and 36-39 to include the limitation of an associated diode device, wherein a unique signal path uniquely couples two of the I/O lines through an associated input element and an associated diode device. As such, Applicant respectfully contends that Claims 32-34 and 36-39 overcomes the Examiner's 112, second paragraph objections. Furthermore, embodiments of the present invention as described in Claims 32-34 and 36-39 are in a condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base Claim 31, as discussed in the previous paragraph.

CONCLUSION

In light of the facts and arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 11-28, 31-34, and 36-39 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these Claims.

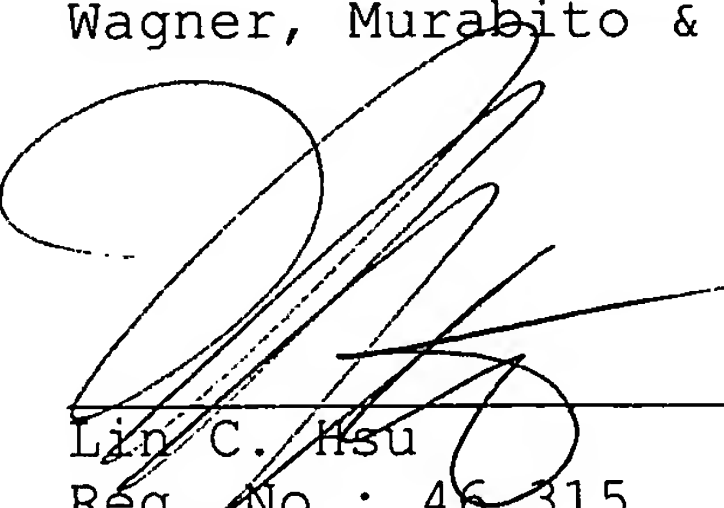
The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _____

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